Mongolia: Higher Education Reform Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Higher Education Reform Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Number</td>
<td>43007-023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Status</td>
<td>Active</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Type / Modality of Assistance</td>
<td>Loan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source of Funding / Amount</td>
<td>Loan 2766-MON: Higher Education Reform Project concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund US$ 20.00 million</td>
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**Strategic Agendas**
- Inclusive economic growth

**Drivers of Change**
- Governance and capacity development

**Sector / Subsector**
- Education - Tertiary

**Gender Equity and Mainstreaming**
- Gender equity

**Description**

**Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy**

**Impact**

**Project Outcome**

**Description of Outcome**

**Progress Toward Outcome**

Opening of the distance education centers was held by MECSS on 24 January 2018. The Minister’s decree on direction and coordination of activities of the distance education centers for 2018-2020 was issued on 22 August 2018. An integrated activity plan of the distance education centers for 2018-2019 was approved by MECSS. As per the plan, a series of six trainings for 2000 teachers and students will be conducted by the centers. The HEMIS team conducted a consultation workshop with MECSS and HE agencies on 19 January 2018. Briefing sessions on progress in developing the system were held in May-October 2018, respectively. As of December 2018, the progress status of the system is 70% and six modules of the system are ready to be implemented. A guideline on the selection and funding of additional students’ initiative projects was approved by MECSS on 15 November 2018. An invitation for grant proposals was published in daily newspapers and websites on 3 December 2018. 147 grant proposals from 23 HEIs (which passed the first stage of evaluation at their respective schools) were submitted to MECSS. Currently, the proposals are under review of the Grant selection committee. The Student enrollment in higher education study analysis report and policy recommendation for gender equality in enrollment policies of Mongolian universities were accepted by MECSS and submitted for publication.

**Implementation Progress**

**Description of Project Outputs**
A total number of managers in public HEIs including directors, deputy directors, branch school directors, branch school deputy directors, academic affairs director was 211 (61.28%) in 2009 and 210 (75.35%) in 2017 respectively. The number of female board members and managers increased by 6.8% from 2009 to 2017.

The furniture, tele-conferencing and remote monitoring tools and software were supplied to five distance education centers at MSUE, Arkhangai branch school of MSUE, Khovd University, Dornod University, Zavkhan branch school of NUM during 2015 and 2016. Two individual consultants to assist in development of e-Learning platform and pilot implementation of e-Learning by the MECSS since 15 December 2017 for 6 months. Opening of the distance education centers was held by MECSS on 24 January 2018. A pilot testing (20-minute-training) was conducted at the opening to evaluate reactions and get feedback from all participants.

The monitoring equipment for distance learning was supplied in September 2018. The Minister's decree on direction and coordination of activities of the distance education centers for 2018-2020 was issued on 22 August 2018. An integrated activity plan of the distance education centers for 2018-2019 was approved by MECSS. A series of six training for 2,000 teachers and students will be conducted by the centers. The first training on e-course content preparation was organized for 15 teachers (9 or 60% are female) on 10-21 December 2018.

On 5 October 2017, ADB endorsed the MECSS's proposal to recruit 6 consultants from the IT team, which had successfully developed Education Management Information System for preschools, primary and secondary education, for development of HEIs. The consultants were recruited in December and commenced services in January 2018. A consultation workshop with MECSS and HE agencies was conducted on 19 January 2018. Briefing sessions on progress in developing the system were held in May-October 2018. As of December 2018, the progress status of the system is 76% and six modules of the system are ready to be implemented. A end users' training on implementation of main modules of a new system for over 200 specialists of all state and private universities was conducted by the HEIMS team on 10-11 December 2018. 160 academic affairs specialists (130 or 78% are female) of 85 universities, institutes including branches and affiliated schools were trained. 13 partnership grants were awarded to 104 researchers from 6 HEIs with aim to promote Industry and HEI's partnership in 2016. Implementation of all partnership development grant projects was assessed and accepted by MECSS Working group during June-December 2017. 24 signed joint research and training development contracts with 20 universities by 16 November 2015. The contract signed with MSUE and University of Oulu, Finland was completed and accepted by the MECSS working group on 8 June 2017. The contract established between the MUST and the MIT is completed on 31 December 2017 and assessed by MECSS working group in February 2018.

A total number of consultants in 2017-2018: The General program of Mongolian National University of Medical Science (MNUMS) and the Geodesy program of the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST) were accredited by the ASIIN in October 2017 and April 2017 respectively. The Software Engineering and Information System for the University of Mongolia (NUM) was accredited by ASIIN under few requirements from 1 December 2017 until 18 January 2019. The Telecommunications Engineering and Technology (Wireless Communications Engineering Technology as a cluster) of MUST received a ABET Draft Statement of Accreditation on 12 January 2018. Mechanical Engineering received its six-year accreditation decision on 29 August 2018. Teacher, Mathematics Education program of Mongolian National University of Mongolia Education (MNUe) received its five-year accreditation decision by ASIIN with requirements for one year on 23 July 2018. Chemistry program of NUM received a one-year conditional accreditation by ASIIN on 28 September 2018.

All 20 programs have been nationally accredited. An official approval of an accreditation of 3 programs (Zoo-engineering and Agronomy programs of MULS, and Information technology of NUM) was made on 15 January 2018. A decision of an approval of 8 programs (Environmental protection technology, Commodities and raw materials technology, of MULS, Nutrition of Must, Electronics engineering of NUM and Teacher, primary education of MSUE) was made on 26 August 2018.

A guideline for implementation of CDIO system was developed in August 2017; and (vi) A set of 6 training manuals were printed and distributed to HEIs; and (v) Equipment and furniture are supplied to the office of the MECSS. Minor renovation was completed at 8 HEIs in 2013-2014. Laboratory equipment was supplied to 2 rural HEIs by the Government Body was revised and approved by the new charter follows Education Law Amendments of 2016 making MNCEA as a central body responsible for general administration/management and implementation of education and accreditation assessment. It also enables MNCEA to register and authorize foreign and national accrediting bodies, advise them and control the process of accreditation. In August 2018, MNCEA Strategic Plan for 2018-2022 was developed by Institute for Strategic Studies in Education and it was approved by ASIIN for its revision. Currently, MECSS is reviewing the revision. MNCEA contracted with an IT firm of MUST to develop its Management Information System. Learning resource study, Employers Satisfaction Survey and Graduate Tracer study were conducted at selected 6 HEIs (the NUM, the MIE, the Institute of Engineering and Technology, Etenge University, Shine Anaagah Medical School, Gurvan Erdene Institute) in 2016 using the methodology proposed by the IRIM consulting firm. In accordance with Accreditation procedures set by MNCEA, all HEIs are obliged to conduct their Employers Satisfaction survey and Graduate Tracer study by using findings of nationwide Labor Market study in quality assurance of full programs of HEIs. In addition, the MECSS signed a three-month contract with IRIM LLC to conduct a series of training to disseminate the methodologies developed under its previous Helsinki Higher Education Responsiveness to Labor Market consultancy service on 15 September 2017. Service contract with IRIM LLC completed in March 2018.

To disseminate the developed methodologies by IRIM LLC, they conducted total of 81 trainings for 1,642 (1,184 or 72% female) faculty, administrators and staff of public and private HEIs in 2015-2018. 53 (39 or 73.58% female) got school-based individual training. To evaluate the progress of IRIM’s Consultancy service in 2018, MECSS signed a three-month contract with IRIM LLC to conduct a series of training to disseminate the methodologies developed under its previous Helsinki Higher Education Responsiveness to Labor Market consultancy service on 15 September 2017. Service contract with IRIM LLC completed in March 2018. A working group established by MECSS has conducted evaluation of 45 projects in April 2017 and the remaining 15 were evaluated in December 2017 and February 2018. All final reports were accepted by the Science and Technology Foundation.
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects: The simplified environmental management plan, prepared during the project design phase, to ensure full mitigation of any environmental impacts of limited civil works, have been followed for the minor civil works such as rehabilitation of existing facilities.

Involuntary Resettlement: No impact on environment and resettlement is anticipated. Neither acquisition of land nor relocation of people is planned.

Indigenous Peoples: No negative impacts on indigenous peoples are expected. Targeting approaches under the project will be applied nationwide and benefit indigenous peoples.

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design: All the relevant stakeholders have been consulted during the project processing, and their views and recommendations have been incorporated in the project design.

During Project Implementation: The MECS and PIU conduct consultation meetings and workshops with various stakeholders including the higher education institutes, other higher education sector projects in order to coordinate activities and exchange experiences. The PIU prepares and circulates a weekly briefing on project implementation for the MECSS.

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Responsible ADB Division: Mongolia Resident Mission

Executing Agencies: Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Sports
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Government Building-III, Suite # 514, Baga toiruu-44, Sukhbaatar district
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Loan 2766-MON

Milestones

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<th>Approval</th>
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<th>Closing</th>
<th>Original</th>
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<td>10 Jan 2012</td>
<td>30 Jun 2017</td>
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Financing Plan

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<th>Others</th>
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Status of Covenants

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